



The Indianapolis Radio Club Newsletter

Founded 1914

April 2025 Newsletter

Upcoming IRC Meetings and Events:

May 9: A presentation from IPL/AES Indiana on how our electrical power is generated and distributed.

June 13: Annual auction.

Highlights from the April Meeting:

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Club President David Spoelstra, N9KT. There were 35 in attendance, including several guests. Recent upgrade Mike Vrabel, KE9BSX, and new member, Jon Brunnemer, KD9NSG were recognized. David asked anyone with ideas for meetings to send a message to board@indyradioclub.org. He reminded everyone of the April 19 club POTA activation. The move of the Welcome Net to the 146.970 repeater was mentioned. David reminded those present of the Indiana QSO Party coming up on March 3. He also mentioned that volunteers are needed for upcoming 500 Festival events [*more info on these last three items are presented in more detail in this newsletter*]. Ron Cooper, WB9DKL talked about the Heathkit receiver he brought in for display. David also noted that more Volunteer Examiners are needed for the club's monthly testing sessions (contact team leader, [Jim Kadjner, AC9ZL](#) for information on joining the team).

Next, David introduced the evening's presenter, Dale Hammer, K9NN for his presentation on the Reverse Beacon Network (RBN) and CW Skimmer. Dale said the RBN was started in 2008 by VE3NEA with the advent of *CW Skimmer* software, which

was able to decode many CW signals from many monitoring stations using Software Defined Radios (SDRs) and broadband antennas at once and comparing them to callsign databases. The RBN software enabled tracking and search history of the received signals. FT mode decoding and tracking was added in 2019. The RBN software only considers a signal valid if received by more than one receiver. The RBN is a great tool to monitor real-time band conditions by comparing how your signal is heard in different locations. Dale showed RBN reports of his recent POTA activation using 3 watts from Arizona as heard from the W9VW station in Hancock County and the K9CT in Central Illinois. Dale shared several tips for RBN usage. Dale said that RBN data has been used for the past 10 years or so to confirm contest logs.

After Dale's presentation, Don, N9BGW won the drawing for the \$25 DX Engineering gift certificate.

Ham Radio News:

CONGRATULATIONS MIKE, AD9CA!

If you see IRC club member, Mike McGlashon, AD9CA, congratulate him for achieving the SKCC Tribune Tx1 award level. The Tribune Tx1 award is earned by SKCC Centurions who work 50 other Centurions, Tribunes, or Senators.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR AREA EVENTS

There are several great opportunities coming up where you can use our hobby to benefit some popular events in Central Indiana. To volunteer for the 500 Festival Mini-Marathon, 500 Festival Parade, along with several other area events, go to <https://www.mcinares.org/publicservice/> and find the event you're interested in. You'll be able to practice your communication skills and have fun at the same time!

WELCOME NET - INDY FINDS NEW HOME

With the dismantling of the W9WIN linked repeater system, the "Welcome (to Amateur Radio) Net" has been divided into "regional" nets. In Indianapolis, we now have "The Welcome Net - Indy" on the W9ICE 146.97 (107.2 tone required) repeater. Since the 146.97 is the host of Central Indiana Skywarn nets, in the event of a weather net on the

repeater, the Welcome Net will be cancelled for that evening. The Welcome Net - Indy will continue to meet at 8:00 pm, Indianapolis time. The Welcome Net continues to be a great place for new hams to get used to using their radios. While these nets are intended to help new hams, all amateurs, whether licensed 1 week or 20+ years, are welcome to check in. Welcome Nets are "conversational nets", where after initial check-ins, a topic for discussion is posed by the net controller and then those that have checked in are encouraged to comment on the evening's topic. The Welcome Net would like to thank Dale Schieman, WB9YCZ and Frank Swindler, WB9OPR of the W9ICE group for their permission to use the 146.97 repeater for the Welcome Net – Indy.

INDIANA QSO PARTY COMING UP MAY 3

The 2025 Indiana QSO Party is coming up Saturday, May 3, running from 11:00 am to 11:00 pm, Indianapolis time. This is a great time to get on the air, because everyone will be looking for Indiana stations. Several plaques and certificates are available for many categories for both in-state and out-of-state stations. Once again this year, there will be 10 "rare" counties (Brown, Cass, Clinton, Wabash, White, Morgan, Shelby, Miami, Carroll, and Switzerland) that will qualify for additional plaques. As of the writing of this newsletter, 73 of Indiana's 92 Counties have a commitment from at least one station to operate from them. Even if you can only get on for an hour or two, submit a log.

Also, be sure to note the Indianapolis Radio Club as your club when you submit your log. More information on the INQP can be found at

<http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/index.html>

RAC WILL NOT ATTEND HAMVENTION THIS YEAR

In a release dated April 8th, the Radio Amateurs of Canada announced that at its meeting on March 27, 2025, their Board of Directors voted unanimously to cancel RAC's plans to operate a booth at Hamvention (Dayton) in Xenia, Ohio in May. In the release, the Board stated that, "The relationship between Canada and the United States has become increasingly strained due to recent trade disputes and tariffs imposed by the US government."

For the complete announcement, point your browser to

<https://www.rac.ca/rac-will-not-attend-hamvention-this-year/>

APRIL 19 CLUB POTA EVENT RECAP

Even though the weather forecast looked a little “iffy” (at best), we held our Parks on the Air (POTA) operating event as scheduled at Fort Harrison State Park. When Kyle, KC9GLR and I arrived at the park to set up around 11:00, the drizzle was slacking off considerably and the sky was actually starting to show some signs of clearing. Around 11:30, our winner of the “drove the farthest” award, Robert Whited, W9PRK arrived from Wheatfield, IN (located between Rensselaer and Crown Point - about a 2 hour drive). By the designated starting time of noon, the rain had completely stopped and the sun was actually trying to brighten things up a bit. We had a total of 14 show up, including 10 IRC members. Six operators made a total of 66 contacts, with band conditions typical of the declining of Cycle 25. Due to approaching weather, we were only on the air for around an hour, but we managed to get everything torn down and packed up before any gear or personnel got wet.

Special Thanks to non-ham (yet) member Mike Oberthur for this group photo. We need to figure out a way to get Mike in the next picture! Click [here](#) to see more of Mike's pictures.



POSTAGE RATES GOING UP IN JULY

On April 9, the U.S. Postal Service filed notice with the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) of mailing services price changes to take effect July 13. The new rates include a 5-cent increase in the price of a First-Class Mail Forever stamp from 73 cents to 78 cents. Of interest to those of us that still send QSL cards out of the US, the International letter rate will also rise from \$1.65 to \$1.70. Click [here](#) for the complete notice.

ARMED FORCES DAY CROSSBAND TEST COMING UP

One of the more unique annual operating events is coming up on May 10. The annual “Armed Forces Day Crossband Test” is a fun event where many bases of the Armed Forces will be transmitting on Department of Defense allocated frequencies (out of the amateur bands) and listening in the amateur bands, on frequencies they announce, for us to contact them. Some unique confirmation cards and letters are often available from the Armed Forces stations. Click [here](#) for all the information, including a list of planned participating stations.

RESULTS FROM APRIL 12 TEST SESSION

2 candidates attended the Indianapolis Radio Club sponsored VE testing on 4/12/2025. 1 new ham earned their first license, and 1 ham earned a license upgrade. Thanks to Ken Bandy KJ9B, Dave Jarvis N9KZJ, Jim Rinehart K9RU, Jim Brown W0RLD, Dave Rodgers KB9YYM, Bill Leahy K9RFK, and Jim Kajder AC9ZL for their help as volunteer examiners!

W9DXCC CONVENTION COMING UP

Mark your calendars for the W9DXCC Convention, coming up September 12 and 13, in the Chicago suburb of Naperville. Once again, the Chicago Marriott Naperville will host the event, with the concurrent *DX University* and *Contest University* sessions taking place on Friday, September 12 and the W9DXCC Convention and Banquet happening on Saturday, September 13. Watch <https://w9dxcc.com/> for program information and registration.

UPCOMING CENTRAL INDIANA TESTING SESSIONS (check with sponsor before planning to attend)

Bloomington IN 47401-5337
Sponsor: Bloomington ARC Inc
Date: May 03 2025
Time: 11:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: William F. Wootton
(812) 327-5457
Email: KC9ACL@ARRL.NET
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: First United Church - Call or email ahead due to COVID-19
2420 E 3rd St
Register at 11:30am
Testing at 12 NOON
Bloomington IN 47401-5337

Greenfield IN 46140-9654
Sponsor: Hancock County ARC
Date: May 03 2025
Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: Sean Waltz
(317) 753-8846
Email: waltz1972@msn.com
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Hancock EMA EOC
640 South Franklin St
Greenfield IN 46140-9654
Website: <https://w9atg.org/ve-testing2/>

Franklin IN 46131-9733
Sponsor: Mid-State Amateur Radio Club
Date: May 17 2025
Time: 9:30 AM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)
Contact: Jacqueline M. Frederick
(317) 432-7095
Email: vetestingmarc@yahoo.com
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Johnson County REMC Building

750 International Dr
Franklin IN 46131-9733
Website: <https://midstatehams.org/>

Anderson IN 46016
Sponsor: Anderson Repeater Club
Date: May 20 2025
Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: Stephen M. Riley
(765) 425-4627
Email: wa9cwe@arrl.net
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Madison County EMA EOC
300 N. Delaware St
GPS LOCATION: 119 N. Jackson St
Anderson IN 46016
Website: <http://www.andersonrepeater.club/>

FEEL FREE TO SHARE OUR NEWSLETTER

If you belong to any other radio groups, please feel free to share our newsletter with them. They can also sign up to be on our mailing list by filling out the form available at http://mail.indyradioclub.org/mailman/listinfo/ircnews_indyradioclub.org.

SEND ME YOUR HAM RADIO NEWS

If anyone has any items for the newsletter, please send them to Ken Bandy at kj9b@arrl.net

Signals from the Past:

From the April, 1976 *Amachewer*:

WARC-79

The year 1979 will be a milestone in the world of communications when the World Administrative Radio Conference of the ITU will be held to re-examine uses of the radio spectrum. For hams, CB-ers and SWL, this conference will likely be the most important happening in a long time. The present division of the radio spectrum is based largely on major

changes made in 1947. At that time, meetings were dominated by leading nations in science and technology -- US, USSR, UK, and France. Expanded by the entry of new countries, membership at WARC-79 can be expected to be about one third higher than at 1947. Because each country has an equal vote, any under-developed country's vote holds as much weight as the US. Many of the new nations are indifferent to the radio advanced nations and couldn't care less about some radio services, namely Amateur, CB, and SWL. With the radio spectrum expected to expand up to 275 GHz., it's important for amateur radio to stake out its claim for the future. There don't seem to be too many counties today that will give strong support to amateur radio. So we in the US, with only one vote, need all the friends we can marshal at the upcoming WARC-79.

[from Popular Electronics]

Upcoming Area Radio Events:

- North Central Indiana Hamfest: April 26 at Miami County 4-H Fairgrounds, Peru, IN. Go to <https://ncihamfest.com/> for more info.
- Hamvention 2025: May 16 - 18 at Greene County Fair and Expo Center, Xenia, OH. More information and advance tickets available at <https://hamvention.org/>

2025 Officers:

- President: David Spoelstra, N9KT – president@indyradioclub.org
- Vice Pres.: Jim Brown, WØRLD - vp@indyradioclub.org
- Secretary/Treasurer: Ken Bandy, KJ9B - secretary@indyradioclub.org
- Dir. at large: Jim Rinehart, K9RU – board@indyradioclub.org
- Dir. at large: Dave Miller, K9RTT – board@indyradioclub.org
- Dir. at large: Kyle Bandy, KC9GLR - board@indyradioclub.org
- Dir. at large: Kevin Colbert, KD9MNB - board@indyradioclub.org
- W9JP Trustee: Jay Kraus, W9TC - w9jp.trustee@indyradioclub.org

To Pay Dues or Donate to the club, go to
<https://tinyurl.com/irc-dues-payment>

Or Scan this QR Code with your smartphone:

